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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GDS/MR
REVIEWED BY ____ DATE 12 JUL 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

Subject: Libyan Coup

Following summary memo circulated within Department morning September 3 sent FYI.

1. We are still in the dark about the composition of the new regime (which has maintained complete anonymity since the coup three days ago) and its ultimate direction. We are seeking therefore to maintain a neutral position between the old and the new ~~gxeimes~~ regimes in the expectation that things will soon become clearer.

(20)

~~2.~~ The Revolutionary Command Council is now in its third day

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with no signs yet of significant organized resistance. An important and so far missing piece of the puzzle, however, is the intensity of the aging King's resolution to work for a return to power.

3. It is perhaps still too early to speak firmly of the new regime's political coloration but its vocabulary is in many respects similar to that of various radical nationalist juntas in the Middle East. If it succeeds in establishing itself, we can expect to find our interests in Libya coming under greater pressure; the coup's success will also be regarded throughout the area as a setback for the United States and its moderate arab allies. The new government, however, stated almost at the outset that it would abide by all internationnal agreements; it has so far made no threatening gestures toward Wheelus Air Base, and has recently moved to normalize petroleum exports and production.

4. King Idris, who was in Turkey at the time of the coup, yesterday dispatched his personal advisor Omar Shalhi on a mission to ~~XXXXXXXX~~ London. There he was received by Foreign Secretary

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Stewart, to whom he made an appeal for British intervention. [redacted] B1EB [redacted] Shalhi then cut short his expected onward travel to the United States, where he hoped to see the President or ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ the Secretary. At last report ~~xx~~ he plans to ~~xxx~~ rejoin the ~~XX~~ King in Greece.

5. The new regime has been recognized by five arab radicals, the UAR, Algeria, Sudan, Syria, South Yemen, and also by East Germany. Tunisia, [redacted] B1EB [redacted] has evolved an interesting approach to the problem of diplomatic relations. The GOT asserts that "recent events are of a domestic nature and do not affect diplomatic relations between the two countries".

END FYI

END

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ROGERS

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